

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 2, 2004

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior  
B308 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor:

As the FY2005 appropriations process begins, we request your support for providing \$150 million for the USDA Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. A cost-share program created in 1990, Forest Legacy's mission is to assist states and local partners in protecting environmentally important forest areas from conversion to non-forest uses.

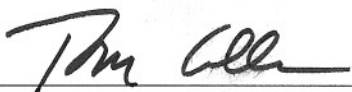
The Forest Legacy Program purchases critical titles or conservation easements in order to keep valuable land in private hands. As privately owned land is increasingly developed, natural resource based economies lose their sustainable supply of forest products and communities lose a healthy environment rich in recreational possibilities. Forest Legacy allows landowners to work with the State and Private Forestry branch of the Forest Service to establish natural resource management plans. Tracts of land may be restricted from development and kept in their natural state, or they may remain "working forests" that can be used for timber harvesting. These tracts are chosen for preservation based on excellent recreational opportunities, historical importance, water quality, or wildlife habitat protection.

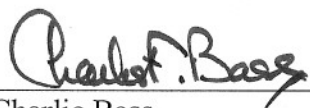
Thirty-seven states and territories are currently participating in the Forest Legacy Program. In addition, nine states and territories are preparing applications. Requests made by states for FY2004 funding totaled \$236 million. Furthermore, this year the Administration's Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) assessment gave the Forest Legacy Program the highest score of any U.S. Forest Service program.


For FY2004, Forest Legacy received funding in the amount of \$71 million. The President's FY2005 budget proposes to increase funding to \$100 million, declaring that the Forest Legacy Program "is valuable and generally has strong management." We respectfully request \$150 million for the Forest Legacy Program as a responsible step toward meeting existing demand of \$236 million.


Thank you for your consideration. We sincerely appreciate your support.

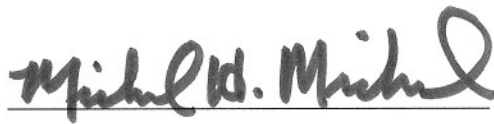
Sincerely,


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Allen


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie Bass

  
Jim Marshall


  
Robert E. Cramer, Jr.

  
Michael Michaud

  
Dale E. Kildee

  
Michael R. McNulty

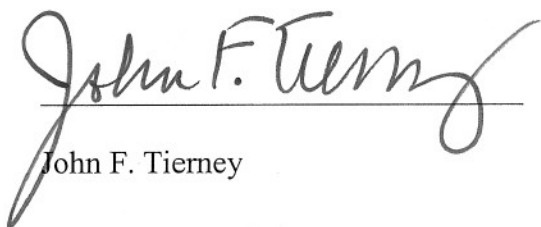
  
John B. Larson

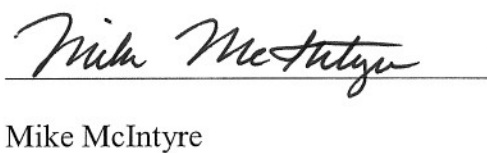
  
Rush Holt

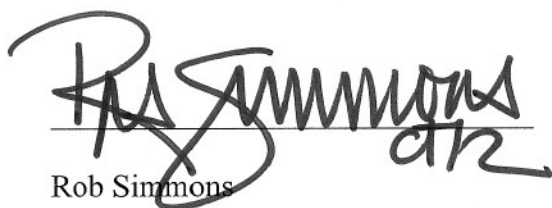
  
Carolyn B. Maloney

  
Jim Matheson

  
Robin Hayes

  
John F. Tierney

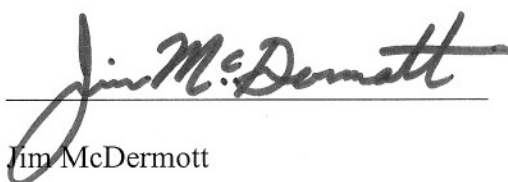
  
Mike McIntyre

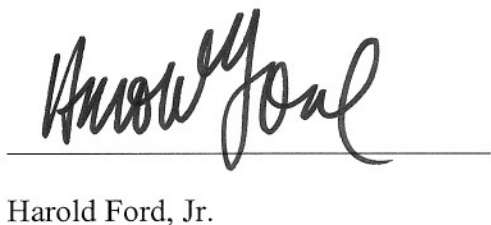
  
Rob Simmons

  
Joseph Hoeffel

  
Ed Case

  
Tammy Baldwin

  
Jim McDermott

  
Harold Ford, Jr.

  
Michael Capuano

  
Josiah Bonner, Jr.

Bart Gordon

Bart Gordon

Neil Abercrombie

Neil Abercrombie

Brad Sherman

Bradley J. Sherman

Peter DeFazio

Peter DeFazio

Barney Frank

Barney Frank

Patrick J. Kennedy

Patrick J. Kennedy

Sherwood L. Boehlert

Sherwood L. Boehlert

Stephen F. Lynch

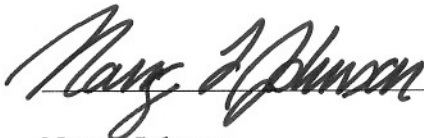
Stephen F. Lynch

Jim Langevin

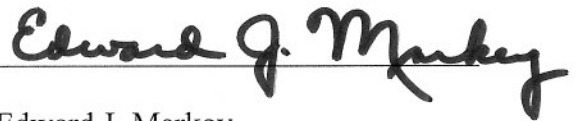
James R. Langevin

John M. Spratt, Jr.

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Nancy Johnson



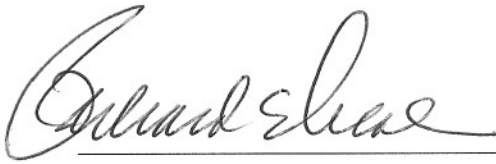
Edward J. Markey



Louise M. Slaughter



Howard Berman



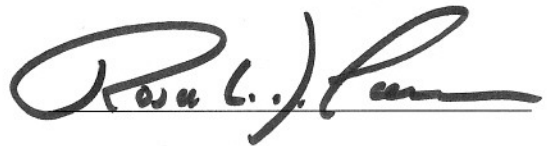
Richard E. Neal



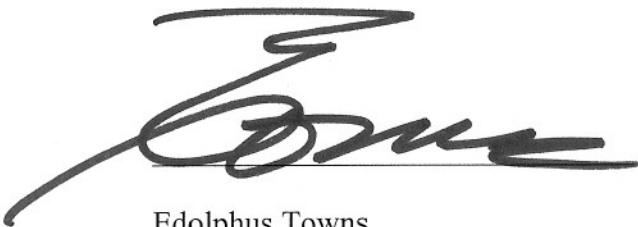
Earl Blumenauer



Tim Holden



Rosa DeLauro



Edolphus Towns



James Oberstar

Carolyn McCarthy

Carolyn McCarthy

Tom Udall

Tom Udall

Anthony Weiner

Anthony Weiner

Betty McCollum

Betty McCollum

Eliot L. Engel

Eliot L. Engel

Steve Pearce

Steve Pearce

Susan A. Davis

Susan A. Davis

Major R. Owens

Major R. Owens

Steve Israel

Steve Israel

Christopher Smith

Christopher Smith



Lincoln Davis



David Scott



Mark Green



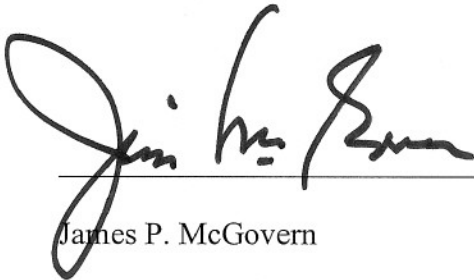
Chris Van Hollen



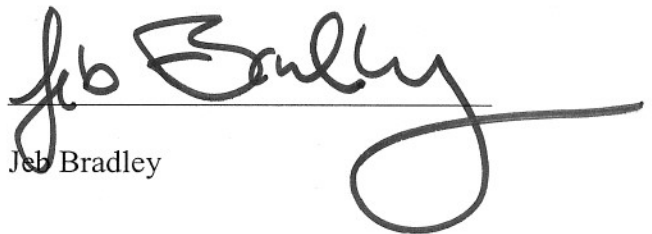
Ron Kind



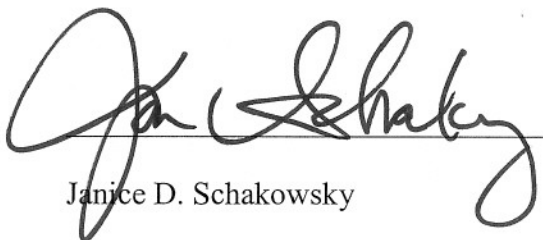
Mike Thompson



James P. McGovern



Jeb Bradley

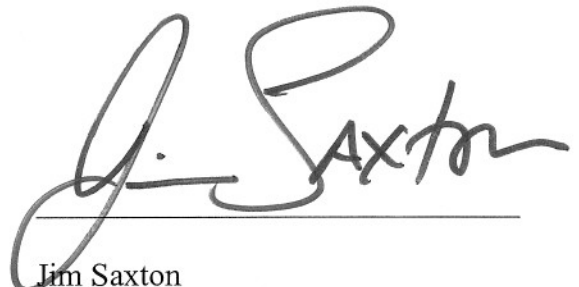


Janice D. Schakowsky



Artur Davis

  
Raul Grijalva

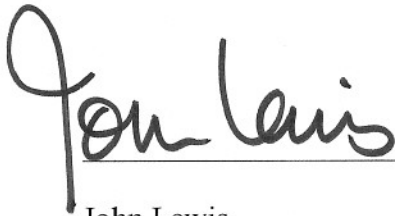
  
Jim Saxton

  
Frank LoBiondo

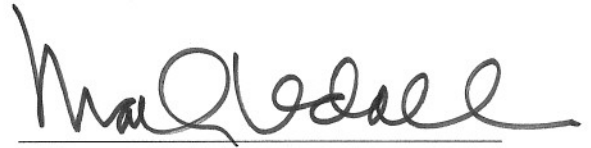
Frank LoBiondo

  
Christopher Shays

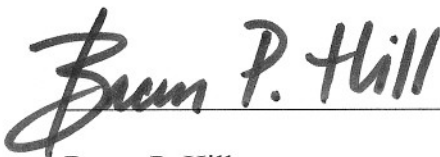
Christopher Shays

  
John Lewis

John Lewis

  
Mark Udall

Mark Udall

  
Baron P. Hill

Baron P. Hill

  
Adam Schiff

Adam Schiff

  
Shelley Berkley

Shelley Berkley

  
Mac Collins

Mac Collins





Frederick Boucher



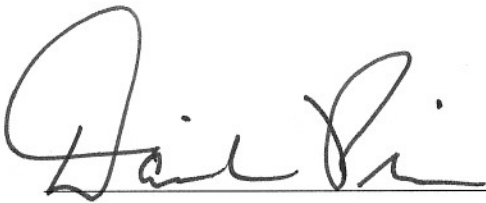
Bernard Sanders



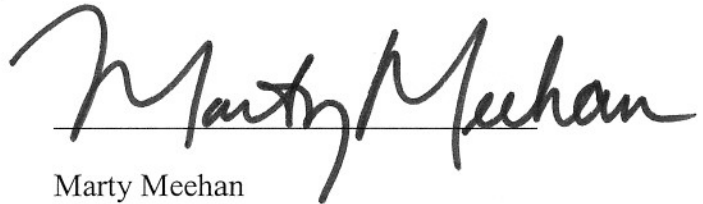
Jim Gerlach



Robert Menendez



David Price



Marty Meehan



Brad Miller



Donald Payne




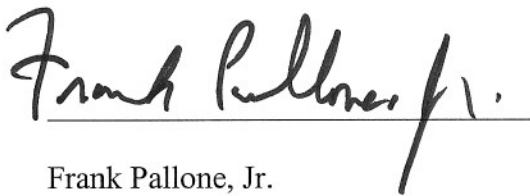
William D. Delahunt



Lois Capps

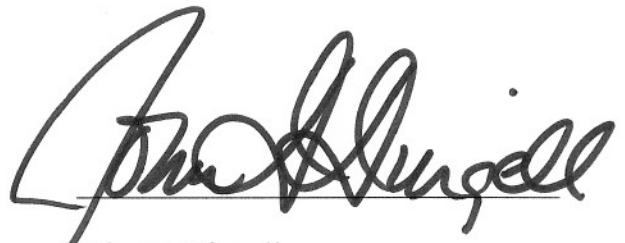
  
Jim Cooper

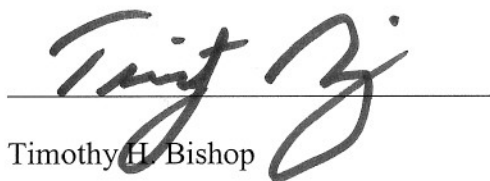
  
Gary Ackerman

  
Frank Pallone, Jr.


  
Barbara Lee

  
George Miller

  
John D. Dingell

  
Timothy H. Bishop

  
Hilda L. Solis

  
William J. Pascrell, Jr.

  
Bart Stupak